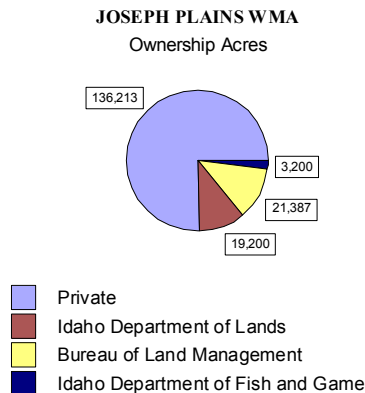


Joseph Plains Weed Management Area

2003 End of Year Report

Introduction:

The Joseph Plains Weed Management Area (WMA) encompasses approximately 180,000 acres located south of the Salmon River (common boundary with the Tri-State WMA), east of the Snake River, north of the Forest Service boundary, and west of the Salmon River WMA. A majority of the lands located within the WMA are privately owned. Additional cooperators include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cottonwood office, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Craigmont office, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Lewiston office (F&G), and Idaho County Weed Control.



This WMA faces similar problems as the surrounding WMAs in that portions of the land base are currently infested with yellow starthistle. Other weed species that inhabit the area to some extent are spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, dalmation toadflax, diffuse knapweed, Italian thistle, Scotch thistle, and white top. This year we were able to continue the progress made in 2002 to complete containment lines and target priority weeds in weed free zones. In addition to the aerial application we continued to have great success in our biological control program, ground based operations, and educational focus.

Summary of Year 2003 Projects

Prevention/Education:

During the beginning of the high use rafting season on the Lower Salmon River, "Wanted" posters depicting new invader species were placed at the Hammer Creek Campground. The Bureau of Land Management has gathered a wide array of informational pamphlets, handouts, bulletins etc. concerning weed species found in the WMA area that cooperators may use for educational purposes. This year, the fair display focused on new invader species currently making inroads into the WMA. Other education and prevention activities include:

- Increased awareness of measures to prevent transport of weeds by livestock
- Roadsides and gravel pits kept free of target plants
- Promoted and supported use of weed free feeds and seed
- Preventive weed control done by spraying all county roadways to avoid spread of weed seeds within and out of the WMA.
- Cooperators are currently aware of the ways weed seeds can spread and pay close attention to areas where new outbreaks may occur due to spread of seed from vehicles.
- Private landowners who have hunting outfitters operating on their properties have required them to segregate their ATVs based upon areas of use to avoid these vehicles spreading weed seed from one area to another.
- IDL and BLM include stipulations in their contracts that requires contractors to clean all equipment before it enters the job.

- Joseph Plains WMA cooperators are actively participating in the weed free hay/feed program being developed for the State. This program will provide the mechanism to insure an adequate supply of quality forage as a preventative measure against weed spread.

Inventory/Mapping:

At WMA meetings, individuals continued to locate new areas of weed locations on the inventory maps and reviewed the containment lines and weed free zones. The boundary changes made in 2002 appear to be a good fit. These boundary changes make better use of our resources and provide a more defensible line for the weed free zones. Approximately fifteen days were spent in inventory and mapping activities by Idaho County Weed Control personnel and cooperators.

Weed Control Actions:

The Joseph Plains WMA cooperators have divided weed treatments into three groups in descending priority and within those groups further divisions of priority by species. Since weed control is most efficient when infestations are small, the first priority was eradication of new invaders. The second priority was eradication of new outbreaks of established invaders. In areas free of certain weed species, we felt it was important to limit new or satellite infestations. The third priority was confinement of established invaders through development of containment lines. Fortunately, resources were available to allow treatment of the highest priority weed species in each of these categories. Accomplishments in each of these weed control actions are described below.

Monitor Eradicated Weeds:

Considered eradicated, these sites were visited to assure no plants have returned (priority 1-C). High priority for the long-term management of weed species is to monitor areas where all known infestations have been eradicated from the Joseph Plains Weed Management Area. For the following weeds we will commit enough resources to ensure monitoring of sites and necessary follow-up treatment to eliminate new plants that may be detected.

Target Weed	Location and description	Treatment Acres
Cypress Spurge	Indian Creek. We determined a site of Cypress spurge was actually mis-identified. It is a spurge, but a common ornamental planted by a local plant enthusiast. At this time, the plant does not appear to be at risk of spreading. However, we are making sure it does not spread.	.1
Diffuse Knapweed	Joseph School. This site was visited three times by three different cooperators during the summer and no plants were located. This is the third year no plants have been found.	.1
Leafy Spurge	Cottonwood Rapids Site. Visited but few plants found. Is not considered eradicated at this time as it will probably re-emerge next year.	1.5
Spotted Knapweed	Morarity Creek, Lacy Flats, Boles. No plants at Boles. Two plants found at Lacy Flats.	.1

Priority 1 – Eradication of New Invaders:

Potentially threatening invaders to the Joseph Plains have been identified, prioritized and treated (priority 1-C). Some weed

species are established within the weed management area (WMA) in localized areas. In order to prevent the spread of these species we can effectively treat the small satellite populations as effectively as a new invader with the same goal of eradication. As with the new invaders, follow-up treatment is necessary.

Species	Location	Methods	Treatment Acres
Spotted Knapweed	Rice Creek Grade, Road Camp Corner, Center Canyon, Top of Scully Creek, Dead Cat Saddle, Coulter Field/Booth Road, Gibbons Canyon, Wolf Creek/IDL, Indian Creek, Janet Pope Cabin, Simmons field, Twogood Field	Herbicide treatment, retreat as necessary	650.15
Purple Loosestrife	Pittsburg Landing, Wolf Creek, Getta Creek, across River from Getta Creek	Herbicide treatment	0
Italian Thistle	Top of Rice Creek Grade, Edge of Bingham Ridge, Rice Creek Flats	Herbicide treatment, retreat as necessary	25.0
Plumeless Thistle	Boles/IDL	Herbicide treatment	3.1
Diffuse Knapweed	HCNRA Big Canyon	Herbicide treatment	.1
Japanese Knotweed	Flynn Creek Cabin	Herbicide treatment/ cut – herbicide regrowth	.25
Leafy Spurge	Cottonwood Creek Rapids, Salmon River Face/Lone Pine Beach	Herbicide treatment	0

Priority 2 - Eradicate New Outbreaks of Established Invaders.

Some weed species are established within the weed management area (WMA) in localized areas. In order to prevent the spread of these species we can effectively treat the small satellite populations as effectively as a new invader with the same goal of eradication. As with the new invaders, follow-up treatment will be necessary.

Species	Location	Methods	Treatment Acres
Scotch thistle	Flynn Creek, Getta Creek, Rice Creek, Shorty Canyon, High Range Creek, Shroyer, Warners, Carothers, Red Clay Corner, Qualey Place	Herbicide treatment	5
Leafy Spurge	Rice Creek Grade, Ryan Flats, Maple Canyon	Herbicide treatment	6
Spotted Knapweed	Ryan Flats, across from Eagle Creek, Burnt Creek, Burnt Creek Section 2	Herbicide treatment	10.5

Priority 3 - Confinement of Established Invaders through development of containment lines.

These weed species are well established in large areas of the WMA. Cooperators have developed ideas for containment lines in order to establish weed free zones. In weed free zones, these species will be treated with an eradication objective.

Species	Location	Methods	Treatment Acres
Yellow Starthistle	Containment lines for large infestations in Rattlesnake Ridge, Salmon Face, Wolf Creek, Sugar Loaf, Divide Creek, Camp Thomas, Getta Creek.	1. Maintain North Zone/Oxbow Containment Line	0
		2. Maintain Camp Thomas Containment Line	0
		3. Maintain Getta Creek Containment	50
		4. Maintain Price Ridge Containment line	113
		5. Maintain North Zone - Camp Thomas connector	7
		6. Maintain Camp Thomas - Hitchcock Connector.	0
		7. Maintain Wolf Creek Connector	175
Yellow Starthistle	Cleanup in weed free zones	Oxbow	0
		Round Springs	40
		Maple Cr.	20
		Rice Creek	0
		Sawmill Creek	0
		Wolf Creek	80
Scotch Thistle	Wolf Creek	Included in Yellow Starthistle containment line.	3
White Top	Carothers, Anderson, McCulley Place, Allen Place, Box flats, Second Creek.	Herbicide treatment	16

This does not include 1221 adjoining acres treated by private land owners.

Bio-Control

Cooperators continued expansion of yellow starthistle biocontrol by making fifteen additional releases of *Eustenopus* and ten additional releases of *Larinus* insects. These insects were used to supplement those released last year into the Divide Creek Weed infestation zone in Billy Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Flynn Creek, and Salmon River Face. Other releases were made in, Rice Creek and Center Canyon to populate the Center Canyon infestation.

Rehabilitation/Restoration: The Getta Creek rehabilitation trial was monitored this year. This information will continue to educate cooperators and others in how livestock, in this case goats, can be used as a tool for revegetation efforts. The goats were used to provide seed coverage and initial weed control post planting in the Getta Creek area. 400 acres were monitored in this project.

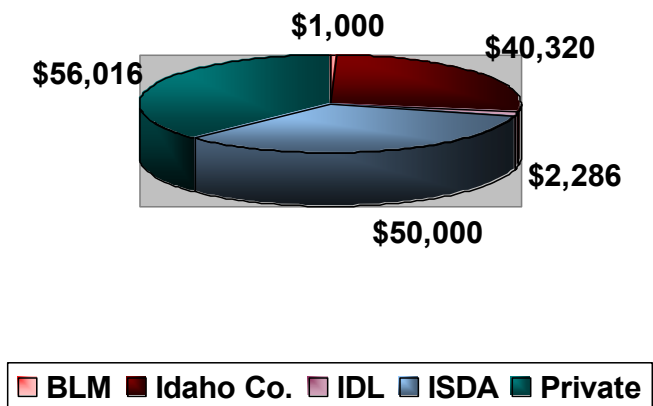
Monitoring was accomplished on the ten acres of Salmon River face Plateau Trial. The Plateau was successful in reducing annual grasses, but yellow starthistle was not affected.

Monitoring:

Monitoring is conducted on all treatment sites to assess the effectiveness of the efforts. The intensity of monitoring is various with some monitoring being only a visit to the treatment area. The most intensive monitoring includes photos and post-treatment narrative describing treatment effectiveness and future treatment recommendations.

Contributors to the WMA:

The following graphs represent only financial contributions to the total weed management activities. Significant in-kind and labor inputs were contributed to the effort as well and are not represented by these depictions.



Appendix I – Steering Committee

Joseph Plains Steering Committee							
Name	Title	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	email
Carl Crabtree	Chair	320 West Main, Room # 3	Grangeville	ID	83530	208-983-2667	ccrabtree@idahocounty.org
Lynn Danly		Route 3, Box 181	Cottonwood	ID	83522	208-962-3797	lynn_danly@blm.gov
Thom Hawkins		P.O. Box 68	Craigmont	ID	83523	208-924-5571	thawkins@idl.state.id.us
Jim White		1540 Warner Ave.	Lewiston	ID	83501	208-799-5010	jwhite@idfg.state.id.us

Appendix II – Project Summaries for Cost Share Funds Only:

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated/Inventoried
Biological Releases	Yellow starthistle	2,000
	Leafy spurge	250
Treated		
	Spotted Knapweed	660.65
	Yellow starthistle	1,716
	Plumeless thistle	3.1
	Scotch thistle	8
	Leafy spurge	7.5
Rehabilitation (monitoring)	Getta Creek	400
	Salmon River Face	10
Prevention/education		200 contacts